

YOUNG MILLIONAIRE FIGHTS WOMAN'S CHARGES AS DID WEALTHY FATHER WHO FOILED PLOTTERS

Story of Gay Wine Party at Sea Financed by Heir to Millions Made in Soft-Drink Industry, Figures in Sensational Suit

WALTER T. CANDLER ASSERTS HE GAVE \$20,000 NOTE TO DEALER IN BLACKMAIL

Former Mayor of Atlanta, Ga., His Parent Sent Pretty Woman and Man to Jail for Badger Game; Spicy Tales Are Told

ONCE again a Candler of Georgia is battling against what he calls a blackmail plot, this time a son having the role of alleged victim as his father had four years before.

Asa G. Candler, the father, founder of the Coca Cola Company—the man who ran a \$2500 investment up to \$25,000,000 and more—won vindication in court and saw his traducers jailed.

Today Walter T. Candler, his son, is struggling to rip away the meshes of alleged blackmail, but, unlike his parent, has resorted to the civil instead of the criminal court.

After he began legal action, the "woman in the case" sued him for \$100,000 damages.

In each instance an attractive married woman was a central figure, although it was not the same woman in both cases.

The elder Candler, then Mayor of Atlanta and sixty-eight years old, began prosecution when a half a million dollars in "hush money" was demanded.

Says Note Was Given to Take Up Own Check

The younger Candler paid when what he calls "hush money" was demanded from him. He gave a check for \$25,000 and later exchanged it for \$25,000 in cash and a note for \$20,500.

But the payment was wrong from him under duress, he sets forth in a petition filed with the Superior Court in Atlanta, Ga., and he asks the court to restrain the holder from disposing of the note.

A temporary restraining order has been issued and the case will be heard September 2. It promises to be as sensational as the trial initiated by his father four years ago, a trial that literally shoved the war news off the front pages of Atlanta newspapers.

There is a dash of piquancy in the situation because Asa G. Candler, now seventy-two years old, will soon have as his bride the lovely Mrs. Onezine De Bouchelle, a young and extremely beautiful divorcee of New Orleans.

The City Hall at Atlanta and the elder Candler's office in the Candler Building formed the locale for the blackmail revelations of four years ago.

The episode in which the younger Candler played a stellar role was on an ocean liner, outward bound, while the ship's orchestra was playing mellow dance music and champagne corks were popping like toy pistols.

Clyde K. Byfield, head of an automobile sales company, is the defendant in the civil action begun by Walter T. Candler.

Byfield took a \$25,000 check from Candler after, he says, he found his wife struggling with the son of the Coca Cola millionaire in her cabin.

Incidentally, the Byfields, husband and wife, were guests of Walter T. Candler journeying to Europe last July on the Cunard liner Berengaria.

In a statement through his counsel Byfield says he tried to kill Candler when he found him and Mrs. Byfield together.

It was a moonlight night almost in mid-ocean when Candler gave a "wine party" for his guests. Mrs. Byfield was acting as companion for Candler's two young children.

An orchestra played delightful dance music, and women with bare shoulders and scintillating gowns stepped in rhythm with their partners. There was a barely perceptible roll to the ship, just a suggestion that the dancers were scudding over the ocean instead of waltzing or two-stepping in a hotel ballroom.

Soft-Drinks Profits Paid for Real "Fizz"

There was more than one bottle of champagne in the ice-filled silver cooler as Candler and the Byfields drank each other's health, watched the gay dancing and exchanged the badinage current on such occasions.

After the "wine party" Byfield took a stroll along a promenade deck for the bracing tonic of the sea air. He left his twenty-one-year-old wife to return alone to her stateroom.

At the end of his promenade and as he approached his cabin suite, Byfield declares, he heard screams. He rushed into the stateroom and says he found his wife, in night attire and kimono, battling with young Candler.

Byfield admits that all three had partaken of champagne, but he denies that he, his wife or Candler was intoxicated. On the other hand, Candler, in his petition to the court, contends that he was under the influence of wine.

"With my bare hands I seized Candler by the throat, maddened at what I saw," Byfield resumes. "I would have killed him and done harm to my wife also had not passengers, stewards

and officers of the ship broken into the cabin and separated us. I want to deny that I had ever suspected undue friendliness between Candler and my wife.

Asserts Candler Cringed After Episode Was Over

"After the battle was over and Mrs. Byfield had locked herself in the cabin, I had visions that I would be left stranded in France by Candler. I didn't ask him for a cent.

"After it was all over Candler came to me cringing and cowardly, and begged me to let him, as best he could, make amends for his wrong. He reminded me that as a result of the night's horror my business would suffer, and that \$25,000 would be no more than just compensation."

Candler, in his petition, calls the matter of the \$25,000 check "a cold hold-up."

Later, according to Byfield, he ex-

changed the check for cash and a note. He says he gave Candler a letter exonerating the young millionaire. The letter of exoneration, he says, was false as to its statements of fact, and was only given when he considered the incident closed.

Byfield condemns himself for signing the letter of exoneration and accepting the note, but points to his "desperate plight in a foreign country" by way of extenuation.

In his petition Candler states he does not know how he got in the stateroom, as he attended a champagne party and was intoxicated.

"Now, I've caught you and I have been suspecting this for six months," the petition says Byfield exclaimed, as he entered the stateroom. "You must pay me \$25,000."

There was a brief fight in the stateroom, the petition recites, after which Candler, "being in a dazed condition, submitted to the blackmailing demand," and gave Byfield a check on the Central Bank and Trust Company of Atlanta for \$25,000.

Wife Sues Millionaire as Result of Attack

After examining the petition, Judge George E. Bell, of Atlanta, temporarily restrained Byfield from disposing of the note, and set the case for hearing September 2.

Byfield's wife, Mrs. Sarah Gillespie Byfield, has just filed a suit against Candler for \$100,000 damages, alleging that as a result of his attack, she has been forced to keep in bed much of the time since.

The younger Candler's case is more complex than that in which his multi-millionaire father won vindication. The founder of the Candler fortune did not pay a penny in tribute and a jury took his word in preference to that of a

young married woman and the man convicted as her accomplice.

The defendants whom the elder Candler had seized were J. W. Cook, an insurance agent of Atlanta, and Mrs. Margaret Hirsch, wife of Herman H. Hirsch, a real estate man.

The main episode brought our in court occurred on February 6, 1918, when Mrs. Hirsch was in the Candler Building office of Mr. Candler, then Mayor of Atlanta.

Mr. Candler, in September, 1917, became acquainted with Mrs. Hirsch, a small woman, with black hair, dark eyes and a quick, attractive smile. He met her during a Red Cross drive, one of hundreds conducted almost simultaneously when America had been in the war a few months.

Different Versions Given of Affair in Atlanta

Mrs. Hirsch came to the Mayor's office accompanied by another woman to learn if the city authorities would sanction the sale of an automobile for a Red Cross benefit. Several days later Mrs. Hirsch called on Mr. Candler in his office in the Candler Building.

Mr. Candler testified that she visited his City Hall office again in January and that she was interested then in securing enforcement of the law against cruelty to animals.

Subsequent events were described under oath by Mr. Candler at the trials of Cook and Mrs. Hirsch.

"Mrs. Hirsch was coming from the direction of M. L. Throver's office, where I have since learned that Cook was employed," he testified. "She asked me for a conference that afternoon in my office in the Candler Building."

"I told her it would be impossible but I would see her Wednesday afternoon, February 6, at 4 o'clock in my office. She did not state the matter to me."

"I remarked that it was probably a window washer, and turned around to

look, but saw nobody. Mrs. Hirsch claimed that it was not a window washer, but a well-dressed white man standing on the ledge.

"I again turned my head to look out of the window. When I turned back to Mrs. Hirsch she had removed her hat and had opened the door leading to the hallway. A man was standing in the door. He immediately entered the office. I had never seen him or heard of him before.

"He said: 'Our honorable Mayor, this is nice.'



Mrs. Clyde K. Byfield



Mrs. Onezine De Bouchelle, engaged to Asa Candler



Mrs. Walter T. Candler



Mary and Eugenia Candler, children of Walter T. Candler by his first wife



Clyde K. Byfield



Walter T. Candler



Asa Candler

Husband of Pretty Sarah Gillespie Byfield Tells How He Found Sportsman in Wife's Stateroom on Liner Holding Her in His Arms

'WITH MY BARE HANDS I SEIZED HIM BY THROAT; I WOULD HAVE KILLED HIM'

When Candler Begins Action to Cancel Note, Woman Files \$100,000 Damage Suit—Son's Case Far More Complex Than Was His Father's

"Cook declared that he was a friend of Hirsch, that he had been watching Mrs. Hirsch for some time, had seen her come to my office and had finally surprised us in a compromising position," Mr. Candler continued.

"I had to restrain myself when he talked like that. He showed me an usher's badge which he claimed to have used at Billy Sunday meetings.

"I had frequently attended the Sunday meetings, but never saw him. He told me that he had been a bad man and gone a fast pace, but had reformed and was now shocked by what he had found out concerning myself and the wife of his friend.

"I had frequently attended the Sunday meetings, but never saw him. He told me that he had been a bad man and gone a fast pace, but had reformed and was now shocked by what he had found out concerning myself and the wife of his friend.

"I have not," "When Cook entered the room, didn't you throw up your hands and say: 'Oh, Lord, I am ruined!'"

"I did not."

It was stated that to Forrest Adair, acting as Mr. Candler's agent, Mrs. Hirsch began with a modest demand for cash and securities that would yield \$3000 a year and ended by demanding the settlement on her of \$500,000.

Thought Half Million Would Be Easy to Pay

"I admire the philanthropic work of Mr. Candler," Mrs. Hirsch was said to have told Mr. Adair. "He gave a million dollars to Emory University, and he ought to be glad to get off with half of that to me."

Cook denied that he or Mrs. Hirsch had tried to extort money from the multi-millionaire. He said he was actuated solely by his friendship for the woman's husband. This claim was heavily discounted when Mr. Hirsch said Cook was only a casual acquaintance.

Cook was sentenced to a year at hard labor in a chain gang and fined \$1000, while Mrs. Hirsch was sentenced to a year in prison and also fined \$1000.

More than a year after the trial of Mrs. Hirsch and Cook, the business world was greatly interested in the reported purchase of the Coca Cola Company for \$25,000,000.

The sale included the name, trademark, formula, contracts and good will of the company and such realty as was actually used by it in the distribution and sale of the product in various cities.

Asa G. Candler started his business career as an apprentice in a drug store in Carterville, Ga., a position he held from 1870 to 1873. From there he migrated to Atlanta, where he obtained a place as clerk in the drug store of Dr. George J. H. Ward, whose daughter he subsequently married. He went into business for himself in 1878, the year of his marriage.

Early in the eighties in Atlanta there was a drug store operated by Willis E. Venable, whose establishment had one marked distinction. In those days drug stores were stores for the sale of medicinal preparations only. The hundreds of side lines which now form the bulk of many such businesses were then undreamed of.

But the marked distinction of Venable's store was his counter, where several varieties of beverages were sold. The thirsty patron could obtain a glass of "soda water," the drink which had attracted so much attention at the Philadelphia Centennial in 1876.

Clerk Made Millions Out of New Soft Drink

After experimenting for several months Mr. Venable found that the soda-water business paid and paid well. Other druggists scoffed and said the sale of beverages belonged properly to the saloon.

But Venable had faith in his side line and he worked out a recipe for a new kind of drink. But his patrons refused to be switched to the new mixture and gradually the druggist lost confidence in the formula.

Among the customers at his soda counter, however, was Asa G. Candler, who tried the new drink and liked it. He was frank enough to tell Venable he liked it. The inventor admitted that the general run of people did not take to it much.

Mr. Candler thought the new drink would be a success if the public became acquainted with it. Finally he offered to buy the formula, paying Venable for his experimental expenses, plus a reasonable profit. After some dickering the sum of \$2500 was agreed upon.

Candler christened the concoction "coca-cola," and began its manufacture on a small scale at 264 Marietta street, Atlanta, in 1886. Success came slowly, until 1888, when a sales agent from the Southern States led to the sale of 2171 gallons of the sirup for that year. This was a jump from twenty-six gallons, the first output for the trade.

The \$2500 investment in the formula began piling up dollars for Candler, so that today the company which he organized has eleven sirup factories in various cities and is producing about 16,000,000 gallons of sirup yearly. The drink is served from 60,000 soda fountains, it being a particular favorite in the South.

Mrs. Hirsch a written agreement which was to read: 'I agree to your proposal.'

"The agreement was to be turned over to Cook," Mr. Candler went on. "I saw Cook again on Wednesday, February 13, in the Mayor's office in City Hall. The meeting was not by appointment. Cook walked into the office unexpectedly. I asked him what he wanted. He replied: 'You are trying to sell me and I will give you until next Friday to do what I have outlined. If you don't do it by that time I will expose the whole thing.' I told him

I at once suspected that a trap had been laid for me.

"I then ran down to the office of my son, Asa G. Candler, Jr., on the floor below and he returned with me to my office on the third floor. We found that Mrs. Hirsch was still there, but the man had left.

"Mrs. Hirsch was crying and I asked her who the man was. She told me his name was Cook and that she had visited at the home of his mother and sister."

Mr. Candler then testified that a conference was arranged with Cook.

"I said to Mrs. Hirsch: 'What does this mean?' But she made no reply, was arranged with Cook."